

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-11, and 13-31 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 4 and 12 without prejudice or disclaimer and submit new claims 23-31. Claims 1, 9, 17, and 20 have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 4.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-11, 13, 15-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kinjo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,219,129; hereinafter “Kinjo”). Claims 4 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinjo. Claims 6 and 14¹ are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinjo in view of Hobson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,317,152; “Hobson”). Applicants submit new claims 23-31 to more fully claim the invention and traverse the prior art rejections with the following arguments.

As an initial matter, Applicants note that Kinjo only qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and therefore, Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 9, 17, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). Accordingly, Applicant submits the common assignment data for Kinjo (Date of Recordation: March 24, 1999, 2003, Reel No.: 009861; Frame No.: 0470) as ATTACHMENT I to traverse the prior art rejections of claims 1, 9, 17, and 20. The assignment of the present application to the common assignee is recorded at Reel 011935, Frame 0006 (Date of Recordation: June 27, 2001).

¹ It appears that the Examiner intended to reject claims 6 and 14, *not* claims 6 and 16, as being rejected under § 103(a) over Kinjo in view of Hobson, in view of the subject matter claimed in claims 6 and 14.

Therefore, Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 9, 17, and 20 for the above reasons.

Claims 2, 3, 5-8, which depend from claim 1, claims 10, 11, 13-16, which depend from claim 9, claims 18 and 19, which depend from claim 17, and claims 21 and 22, which depend from claim 20, are patentable for at least the reasons submitted for their respective base claims. New claims 23-31 are patentable for at least the reasons submitted in their respective base claims.

In addition, claim 9 is patentable because Kinjo does not disclose or suggest a switching unit for performing switching operations among a first conversion, a second conversion, and both of said first and second conversions, as claimed. Rather, Kinjo discloses a data processing section 54 which stores data in *either one of* the prescan memory 40 or the fine scan memory 42 and does not allow for the possibility of switching as claimed because the data processing section 54 cannot switch to both the prescan memory 40 and the fine scan memory 42 at the same time.

Claims 17 and 20 are also patentable because Kinjo does not disclose or suggest converting the input image data obtained by a single image reading operation to obtain *two or more types* of output image data which have different data formats from each other (claim 17) and a converting section for converting the input image data obtained by a single image reading operation *to two or more types* of output image data having different data formats from each other (claim 20). Kinjo discloses the processing of the prescan image for eventual display and the processing of the fine scan image for eventual printing. Kinjo, however, does not disclose the processing of just the prescan image into a format for display *and* another format for printing from, or the processing of just the fine scan image for display *and* printing.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln No. 09/815,287

Atty Dkt No. Q62092

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

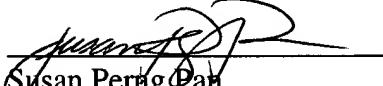
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Patent Assignment Abstract of Title

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